

Exhibit 7

Hockema, Jared Declaration of Standing

DECLARATION OF JARED HOCKEMA

I, Jared Hockema, hereby state as follows:

1. I am of legal age and competent to give this declaration. All information herein is based on my own personal knowledge unless otherwise indicated. I give this declaration for the City of Port Isabel's challenges to FERC's Remand Orders concerning the Rio Grande LNG, Rio Bravo, and Texas LNG projects.
2. I am the City Manager of the City of Port Isabel ("City"). As the City Manager, I administer the City, oversee the City, hire and fire City employees, set the budget, enforce the budget, oversee the departments, enforce ordinances, and carry out the directives of the City Commission. I have served as the City Manager since May 2015.
3. Port Isabel is a coastal City located in Cameron, County, Texas with a population of 5,108 as of July 1, 2022. Port Isabel is a historic sea port and fishing community that has transitioned to a tourism-based economy as the local fishing industry has declined. More than three-quarters (82%) of City residents are Hispanic. City residents have a per capita income of \$19,190 and 27.7% live in poverty.

4. Port Isabel expends approximately \$7.5 million annually on the maintenance and management of City lands, historic districts, historic sites, nature centers, streets, parking lots, sidewalks, marinas, libraries, meeting halls, and other public facilities and the provision of public services including fire, police, shuttle bus transportation, trash collection, parking and enforcement of land use plans and zoning regulations.

5. The Rio Grande LNG terminal site is located adjacent to City land and approximately 1.66 miles from the populated parts of the City. Additionally, the Rio Bravo pipeline, which will serve the terminal, runs along or within City limits. Rio Grande LNG is the larger of the two terminals proposed along the Brownsville Ship Channel.

6. The Texas LNG terminal site is located adjacent to City land and approximately 0.8 miles from the populated parts of the City.

7. The adverse environmental impacts of these projects, both individually and collectively, will harm the economic, aesthetic, public safety, and natural resource interests of the City.

8. The increased traffic, closure of the ship channel for LNG vessel traffic, air pollution, visual impacts, and noise from the construction

and operation of these projects will degrade the City's quiet, beauty, serenity, and natural character. This damage to the character and perception of the City will likely erode tax revenue for the City due to a decrease in tourism, recreational and commercial fishing businesses, and property taxes. These impacts have already begun, as heavy truck traffic, frequent road blockages and the reduction to one lane along SH 48 from site preparation activities for the Rio Grande LNG project have severely limited access to the City of Port Isabel.

9. The economic interests of the City will also be harmed by the risk of explosions and emergencies from the projects, which would require the City to expend additional public safety resources to ensure the safety of its residents. The Cameron County Space Port/Space X Launch Facility is located approximately 6.8 miles from the terminal sites. Recent explosions at the Space X facility sent shockwaves through the City, highlighting the danger posed by the close proximity of the terminal sites to the launch facility, as well as the potential for the projects to adversely affect the City.

10. The City is greatly concerned about the location of the proposed projects in an area of special scenic, cultural and historic value. The

projects are located adjacent to the Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. This highly sensitive site is notable for the habitat it provides to threatened and endangered species, such as the ocelot and the jaguarundi; its importance in fostering economically important recreational and commercial fishing activities for the City and its residents; and for the presence of Native American artifacts. Additionally, numerous other sites of special scenic, cultural, and historic value are located in the City and its surrounding area. These include the Port Isabel Lighthouse, numerous parks, and the Laguna Madre.

11. As a result, the projects would adversely impact environmentally sensitive ecosystems and natural resources within City limits. The Bahia Grande Unit of the refuge is located within the City's limits and directly abuts the proposed sites. This area provides habitat for endangered species and sensitive natural resources. Given the proximity of this refuge to the proposed projects, the additional air pollution, traffic, and noise, along with the destruction of wetlands, and other harmful environmental impacts would have an adverse impact on the use of this important City natural resource.

12. These impacts are already occurring due to site preparation activities at the Rio Grande LNG site. Ancient lomas have been destroyed. Areas within tidally-influenced lands and wetlands have been disturbed. Stormwater runoff laden with soil and construction debris has entered bodies of water. Large quantities of debris and sand now litter the site and the adjacent roadway. Additionally, the bright lights and heavy machinery are operated day and night. Numerous animals apparently fleeing the construction activity have been struck on the roadway. Unfortunately, the City has received at least one report that an ocelot was found dead near the construction site.

13. The City invested significant resources into improvements to the Bahia Grande lagoon system and its citizens and visitors regularly fish and kayak in these lagoons. There are several channels that interconnect these lagoons in order to enhance this sensitive environmental area. The City helped construct these channels. Therefore, harm to these natural resources would severely undermine this important work and also have an adverse economic impact on the City.

14. The City's residents and employees will also be harmed by exposure to higher levels of air pollution, including ozone levels that could violate federal air quality standards caused by the projects. In particular, the Laguna Madre Park and the Laguna Madre Youth Center are located within the City's limits. These popular facilities offer outdoor exercise and sports activities to the City's residents. The outdoor nature of these strenuous activities places the participants, as well as City staff, volunteers and spectators, at greater risk of harm from air pollution. Additionally, the Port Isabel Police Department Shooting Range is extremely close to the sites. The Rio Grande LNG site, for example, is less than one mile away. City employees and police officers spend significant time outdoors at this facility for various activities, such as target practice and fitness training. Again, the outdoor nature of these strenuous activities places the participants at greater risk of harm due to the air pollutants the projects will emit. The Port Isabel animal shelter is also located within City limits and is close to the facilities. It houses animals both outdoors and indoors. City employees and volunteers are placed at a greater risk of harm at the animal shelter due to the air pollutants the projects will emit. Finally,

the Artisan Apartment and Port Isabel Housing Authority are located in the City's limits and are owned by the Port Isabel Housing Authority. In addition to low-income persons, these buildings also house the elderly and disabled, who may be immunocompromised and, therefore, at a greater risk of harm from air pollution. This presents a potential environmental justice issue.

15. The harmful health impacts from this increased air pollution would cause additional economic harm to the City from the need to expend more resources on health care for residents and employees. Many Port Isabel residents are uninsured, and medical conditions, including asthma, diabetes, and obesity are more prevalent in the City than in the state and nation.

16. The City will also be harmed by the dust generated from site preparation, construction, and maintenance activities at the Rio Grande and Texas LNG terminal sites due to the location of the projects upwind of the City. Such dust has the potential to harm the health of City residents and damage public and private property. For many years following previous development activity near the project sites, the City was plagued by windborne dust. This dust, which was comprised of fine

silt and salt deposits, lead to increased respiratory illness among residents; diminished the attractiveness of the area to visitors; damaged public and private property due to its corrosive properties; and posed a hazard to drivers. The City worked for many years to abate the dust problem by restoring the Bahia Grande, and the proposed projects threaten to undo these efforts and cause the dust problems to return. As explained above, site preparation activities at the Rio Grande LNG site have already caused large amounts of loose soil and dust to be spread across the adjacent roadway and stormwater laden with soil to enter natural bodies of water and wetlands.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 24 day of November, 2023

Jared Hockema

City of Port Isabel City Manager